MARVEL
X-MEN 2099
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GOOD WORK, XI'AN...
WELCOME TO THE THEATRE OF PAIN!
DIRECT EDITION

NO MATTER HOW DISTANT THE HIGHWAY--NOR HOW ROUGH THE ROAD--
--THE GARAGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY FINAL DESTINATION---
--A SAFE HAVEN FROM THE ELEMENTAL FORCES THAT IMPERIL MY LONG JOURNEYS.
WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE GARAGE, MORE THAN MY SECRET HEART IS SECURED
INTERESTING.
MY HUNT FOR LA LUNATICA HAS LED ME TO THIS STRANGE DESERT STRUCTURE--
HERE I HAVE COMMENDED THE SOULS OF A LOST GENERATION.
--WHERE I WATCHED THE GIRL AND HER THREE MUTANT COMPANIONS ENTER THROUGH A DOORWAY THAT DISAPPEARED BEHIND THEM--
--THE ENTRANCE NO DOUBT DISGUISED BY SOLID FIELD PARTICLE PROJECTION.
HERE I AM SWORN TO KEEP THEM SAFE UNTIL THE DAY OF REFORMATION.
I'VE NOT TRAVELLED THIS FAR TO LET STEEL WALLS KEEP ME FROM MY PREY...
HOWEVER MY CURIOSITY HAS BEEN PIQUED...
...AND NOTHING CAN KEEP BRIMSTONE LOVE FROM LEARNING WHAT SECRETS LAY BEHIND THESE STEEL WALLS.

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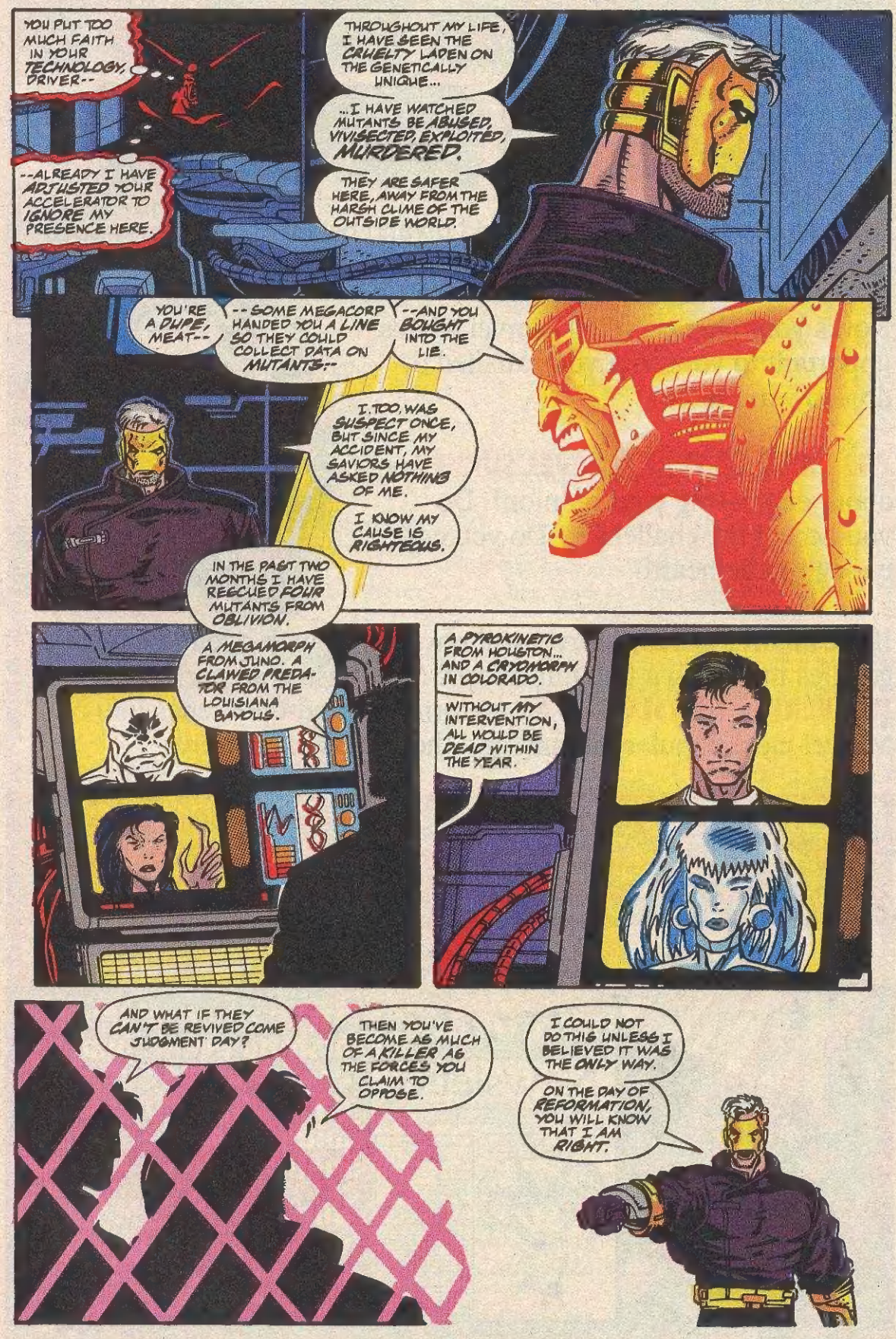
HaCsA Scan By GOTHMAN

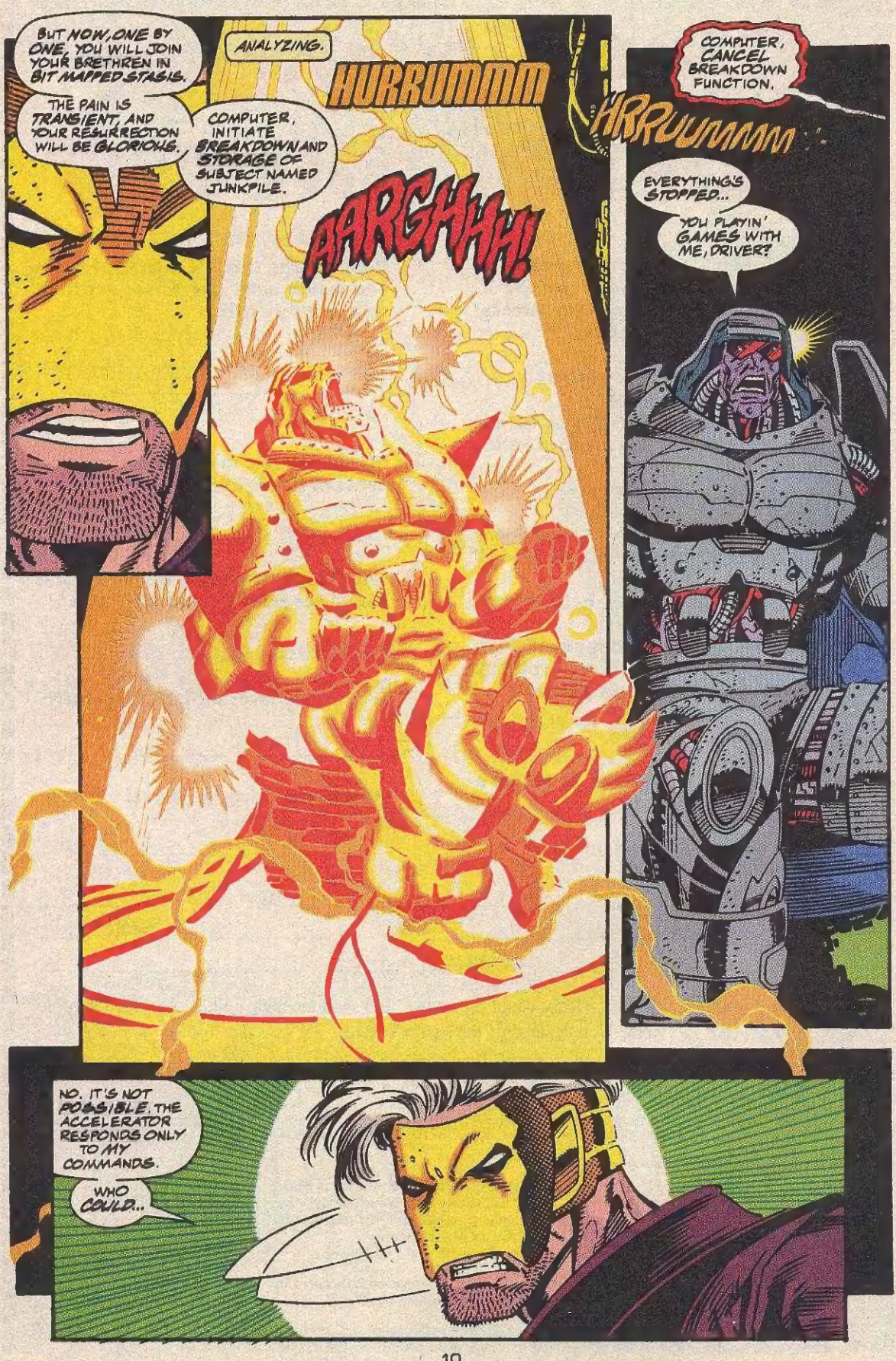
DEAD END
STAN LEE PRESENTS A HEAD ON COLLISION BY:
JOHN MOORE--WRITER RON LIM--PENCILER HARRY CANDELARIO--INKER
KEN LOPEZ--LETTERER TOM SMITH--COLORIST JOEY CAVALIERI--EDITOR
AND TOM DeFALCO--BIG DADDY
LET ME GO!!!

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT ONCE I GET OUTTA THIS CHAIR--
--I SWEAR I'M GONNA KILL YOU IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY--
THE IONIC FIELD THAT SURROUNDS YOU HAS NEUTRALIZED YOUR MUTANT ABILITIES...
...AND THOSE RESTRAINTS ARE MADE OF AN ADAMANTIUM ALLOY.
THERE'S NO POINT IN STRUGGLING, FRIEND.
THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
SO THIS IS THE LEGENDARY DRIVER THAT MAMA HURRICANE TOLD YOU ABOUT, XI'AN?
CONSIDERING HE'S TRAPPED US INSIDE THIS LASER GRID--
--HE'S NOT MAKING A GREAT FIRST IMPRESSION.
YOU WERE SO ANXIOUS TO FIND THIS PERSON THAT YOU LED US INTO HIS GARAGE BLINDLY--
--AND NOW WE'RE ALL IN LINE FOR THE HOTSEAT HE'S LOCKED JUNKPILE ONTO.
NO ONE ASKED YOU TO FOLLOW ME HERE, LUNA.
RIGHT NOW, WE NEED TO DETERMINE THE SEVERITY OF OUR PRESENT CONDITION.

DON'T NEED A WEATHER CHANNEL TO KNOW WHICH WAY THE WIND BLOWS HERE, X'AN--
--WE'RE ROYALLY SCREWED.
DRIVER, MAMA HURRICANE TOLD US YOU WERE ONCE PART OF THE MUTANT UNDERGROUND DURING THE PURGE--
--IF YOU HELPED MUTANTS THEN, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS NOW?
HURRICANE? I HAVEN'T HEARD THAT NAME IN YEARS-- SINCE BEFORE THE ACCIDENT.
SO SHE'S STILL ALIVE? NOT THAT I SHOULD BE SURPRISED. SHE HAD THE FIRE.
BUT YOU MISTAKE MY ACTIONS AS HOSTILE, WHEN THEY ARE FAR FROM IT.
YEARS AGO I WORKED WITH HURRICANE TO KEEP MUTANTS OUT OF THE ZERO CAMPS--
--AND I HAVE CONTINUED THE FIGHT TO PROTECT THE SCATTERED MUTANT TRIBE.
IN THE PAST DECADES, I HAVE SOUGHT OUT HUNDREDS OF MUTANTS AND GIVEN THEM SANCTUARY.
MAYBE I'M MISSING SOMETHING, BUT I DON'T SEE ANY OTHER MUTANTS--
-- UNLESS THAT FUNKY CAR IS AN AUTOMORPH WITH BAD MANNERS.
YES, WHERE ARE ALL THESE MUTANTS YOU CLAIM TO HAVE RESCUED?
THE GENETIC CODES OF ALL MY PASSENGERS HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN THE DATABANKS OF THE ACCELERATOR.
THE PROCESS OF TRANSCRIPTION DESTROYS THE PHYSICAL BODY--
--BUT WHEN THE WORLD OUTSIDE NO LONGER THREATENS MUTANTKIND--
--I WILL INITIATE THE REFORMATION.
ALL YOU'LL GET IS SOULLESS BISHOP KNOCKOFFS.
A MASS MUTANT RESURRECTION? I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S POSSIBLE.
YOU CAN'T REVIVE PEOPLE FROM A COMPUTER PROGRAM.

I KNOW ABOUT REBIRTH, XI'AN CHI XAN.
"ONCE I WAS PART OF THE MUTANT UNDERGROUND SUPPORT ENGINE--MUSE--
--A GROUP OF HUMANS AND MUTANTS WHO OPPOSED THE GENETIC WITCHHUNTS THAT HAD ELIMINATED SO MANY INNOCENTS.
"THE WOMAN CALLED HURRICANE AND I FERRIED FUGITIVE MUTANTS FROM SAFEHOUSE TO SAFEHOUSE.
"AFTER YEARS OF AVOIDING THE SEEKERS AND NIMRODS, THE GOVERNMENT FOUND ME.
"THEY SABOTAGED MY VEHICLE, CAUSING THE ENGINE TO FREEZE IN THE CRUCIAL MOMENTS OF A CHASE.
"BY ALL RIGHTS, I SHOULD HAVE DIED--
--ANOTHER MUTANT SYMPATHIZER ELIMINATED BY AUTHORITY OF THE GENETIC PURITY MANDATE.
"BUT I WAS RESCUED BY MYSTERIOUS BENEFACTORS, WHO REPAIRED MY BODY AND DELIVERED MY SOUL.
"TO THIS END, THEY REWIRED MY NERVOUS SYSTEM SO I WAS CONNECTED WITH THE CAR THEY PROVIDED--
"--THE NITROBURN.
"FOR THIS NEW LIFE, I WAS GIVEN A NEW PURPOSE BY MY ANONYMOUS SAVIORS--
"--TO SAVE MUTANTKIND FROM EXTINCTION BY BRINGING THEM HERE."


YOU PUT TOO MUCH FAITH IN YOUR TECHNOLOGY, DRIVER--
--ALREADY I HAVE ADJUSTED YOUR ACCELERATOR TO IGNORE MY PRESENCE HERE.
THROUGHOUT MY LIFE, I HAVE SEEN THE CRUELTY LADEN ON THE GENETICALLY UNIQUE...
...I HAVE WATCHED MUTANTS BE ABUSED, VIVISECTED, EXPLOITED, MURDERED.
THEY ARE SAFER HERE, AWAY FROM THE HARSH CLIME OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
YOU'RE A DUPE, MEAT--
-- SOME MEGACORP HANDED YOU A LINE SO THEY COULD COLLECT DATA ON MUTANTS:--
--AND YOU BOUGHT INTO THE LIE.
I, TOO, WAS SUSPECT ONCE, BUT SINCE MY ACCIDENT, MY SAVIORS HAVE ASKED NOTHING OF ME.
I KNOW MY CAUSE IS RIGHTEOUS.
IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS I HAVE RESCUED FOUR MUTANTS FROM OBLIVION.
A MEGAMORPH FROM JUNO. A CLAWED PREDATOR FROM THE LOUISIANA BAYOUS.
A PYROKINETIC FROM HOUSTON... AND A CRYOMORPH IN COLORADO.
WITHOUT MY INTERVENTION, ALL WOULD BE DEAD WITHIN THE YEAR.
AND WHAT IF THEY CAN'T BE REVIVED COME JUDGMENT DAY?
THEN YOU'VE BECOME AS MUCH OF A KILLER AS THE FORCES YOU CLAIM TO OPPOSE.
I COULD NOT DO THIS UNLESS I BELIEVED IT WAS THE ONLY WAY.
ON THE DAY OF REFORMATION, YOU WILL KNOW THAT I AM RIGHT.


BUT NOW, ONE BY ONE, YOU WILL JOIN YOUR BRETHREN IN BIT MAPPED STASIS.
THE PAIN IS TRANSIENT, AND YOUR RESURRECTION WILL BE GLORIOUS.
ANALYZING.
HURRUMMM
COMPUTER, INITIATE BREAKDOWN AND STORAGE OF SUBJECT NAMED JUNKPILE.
AARGHHH!
COMPUTER, CANCEL BREAKDOWN FUNCTION.
HRRUUMMMM
EVERYTHING'S STOPPED...
YOU PLAYIN' GAMES WITH ME, DRIVER?
NO. IT'S NOT POSSIBLE. THE ACCELERATOR RESPONDS ONLY TO MY COMMANDS.
WHO COULD...

I, BRIMSTONE LOVE COULD, CHILD.
NANOTECH PARASITES FED INTO YOUR CPU GAVE ME ACCESS TO THE ACCELERATOR.
I SAW NO REASON TO RENDER THESE MUTANTS INCORPOREAL--
--NOT WHEN THEY CAN PROVIDE SO MUCH ENTERTAINING DIVERSION IN THE PRESENT.
/MADRE! HE FOUND ME!
LUNA, THIS IS THE BRIMSTONE LOVE YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING FROM?
THE GUY YOU ENLISTED JUNKPILE AND ME TO GO UP AGAINST?

KEEP HIM AWAY FROM ME...
LUNA, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS...
LA LUNÁTICA HAS EVERY REASON TO FEAR ME, BOY.
BUT I'LL DEAL WITH HER IN DUE TIME.
I'M MORE INTERESTED IN XI'AN.
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
THEN MY OFFER WILL HAVE YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION.
DEVIL, YOU'VE VIOLATED THE SANCTITY OF THE GARAGE.
EXCUSE ME.
CYBORG, YOU'VE NO IDEA WHO I AM.
I AM THE FOUNDER OF THE THEATRE OF PAIN... THE DEVIL GIVEN FLESH.
THWACK
KRACK
THE POWER AND FIRE OF THE EARTH'S MOLTEN CORE BURNS IN MY VEINS.

HEY, THE DRIVER MUST'VE SMASHED INTO A POWER MAIN-- THE LASER GRID'S DOWN.
TUM, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE... NOW... HURRY...
YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT AN OFFER?
ONE YOU'D BE A [redacted] TO REFUSE. CONSIDER JOINING THE THEATRE--
DRIVER, I'M FREE! ONCE I GET MY HANDS AROUND YOUR NECK--
--I'M GONNA DRIVE YOU INTO THE GROUND!
THERE'S TOO MUCH I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE GARAGE TO LET JUNKPILE KILL THE DRIVER.
HOWEVER, I WON'T STOP HIM FROM INFLICTING SOME DAMAGE.
CALL ME PETTY AND VENAL, BUT, AFTER ALL--
--THE DRIVER HAD EVERY INTENTION OF BIT MAPPING US INTO COMPUTER LIMBO...
AND WHERE DO YOUR LOYALTIES LIE IN ALL OF THIS?
STAY BACK..
NO MERCY, MEAT...
CAN'T GET OUT OF HIS WAY..
FORWARD, NITROBURN... TO ME..
THE [redacted] IMPLANTED IN THE DRIVER'S BRAIN ACTIVATES HIS VEHICLE FROM A DISTANCE.
VRUM
VRUM
VRUM
VRUM
ACCELERATE.

AT THE TRANSMITTED SIGNAL, THE NITROBURN ROARS ACROSS THE GARAGE FLOOR--
--IN A STATE OF MOLECULAR PHASE UNION MAKES THE CAR ALMOST COMPLETELY INSUBSTANTIAL--
BLASTED CAR'S PASSING THROUGH--
ARRRGGH!
VROOOOM
--AND WHILE THIS VIBRATORY SHIFT DOES LITTLE DAMAGE TO INORGANIC OBSTACLES--
--IT HAS QUITE ANOTHER EFFECT ON LIVING TISSUE
KRRSCHOW
AHH.. HELP ME... AHHH.. HURTS--

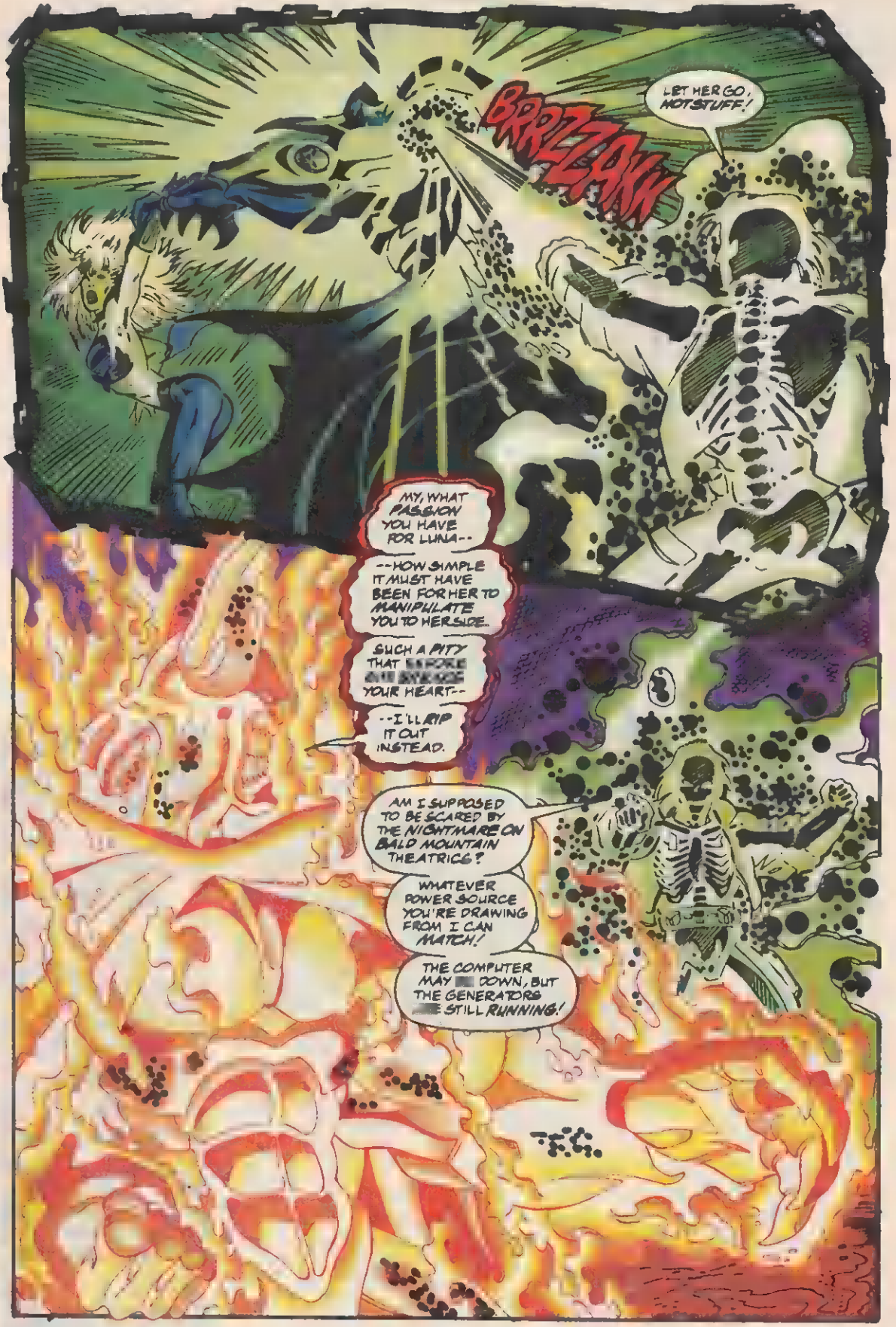
SNAP
SNAP
LUNA, LOOK OUT! THAT ENGINE BLOCK JUST [redacted] ITSELF OFF THE WALL.
WHAT'S HAPPENING? ANOTHER OF THE DRIVER'S TRICKS?
NO, IT'S JUNKPILE...
WHEN HE'S WOUNDED, HIS BODY REPAIRS AND [redacted] ITSELF WITH METAL SCRAP...
...BUT THE NITROBURN PASSING THROUGH HIM'S CAUGED SOME SORT OF SEIZURE!
WITHOUT ANY CONTROL, HE'S TELEKINETICALLY GRABBING EVERY LOOSE PIECE OF METAL IN THIS PLACE...
HE'S DISMANTLING THE ACCELERATOR.
NO!!!

DRIVER!
IF YOU WANT TO SAVE THE MUTANTS STORED IN THE ACCELERATOR'S MEMORY--
--YOU'D BETTER ACT FAST BEFORE JUNKPILE STARTS TEARING APART YOUR COMPUTER MEMORY CHIP BY MEMORY CHIP.
STAY AWAY FROM THE ACCELERATOR!
THIS IS MY RESPONSIBILITY!
UNFF... TOUCHY...
WARNING: SYSTEMS ERROR.
COMPUTER, DOWN LOAD FILES INTO SECONDARY STORAGE... NOW... NOW, I SAY...
UNABLE TO COMPLETE COMMAND BECAUSE OF INTERNAL DAMAGE.
COMPUTER, RE-EXECUTE BACK-UP...
SYSTEMS FAILURE. ALL MEMORY LOST.
CRASHED..?
TWO HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN LIVES LOST--
--THEY [illegible] SUPPOSED TO BE SAFE HERE...
NOOOO!

UNFFF--
KLRANG
DRIVER, I CAN STOP THIS... BUT I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU...
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME ABOUT AVALON.
YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE [illegible] MUTANT COLONY THE UNDERGROUND LED TO HALF A CENTURY AGO?
NO, YOU'VE CAUSED ENOUGH DAMAGE HERE ALREADY, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS.
YOU PLAYED THE MUTANT SAVIOR WHILE IT SUITED YOU, AND THEN REVERTED TO TYPE.*
YOU ARE NOT WORTHY OF XAVIER'S LEGACY.
I KNOW YOUR KIND, OUTLAW.
*ACTUALLY, XI'AN'S PERSONALITY REGRESSED DURING A PSYCHIC BATTLE WITH MASTER ZHAO IN X-MEN 2099 #9--JOEY
DON'T PLAY SUPERIOR WITH ME, DRIVER--YOU'VE [illegible] SO MANY LIVES BELIEVING IN SOME FAR OFF REFORMATION DAY.
THE TRUTH IS YOU KILLED EVERY ONE OF THEM LONG AGO.
YOU'RE A DELUDED FOOL.
THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN [illegible] THAT WAS THE PROMISE.

REVERSE.
SKREEE
FWUMP
DELUDED?
YES, PERHAPS.
MY WORLD HAS BEEN DESTROYED. THE GARAGE
NOTHING IS LEFT FOR ME HERE.
OPEN
BEFORE I GO, I HAVE ONE FINAL THING TO SAY TO YOU, XI'AN...
...READ THE SIGNPOSTS CAREFULLY..
...SOME ROADS LEAD STRAIGHT TO HELL.
VROOM
IF WE WERE SMART, WE WOULD'VE GONE WITH HIM...

...INSTEAD OF STAYING HERE AT THE EYE OF THIS METALSTORM.
TIM, I'VE--WE'VE--GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS STUPID GREASE PIT.
OH NO, LITTLE GIRL, YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
THAT STUNT YOU PULLED WITH THIRTEEN COST ME ONE OF MY MOST PROLIFIC CONTROLLERS.
BUT JUST BECAUSE THIRTEEN'S A MINDLESS IDIOT NOW DOESN'T MEAN YOU'VE LOST YOUR ROLE IN THE THEATRE.
THE THEATRE DIDN'T DRAG YOU OUT OF THAT BORDER TOWN TO LET YOUR TALENTS GO TO WASTE.
WE INVESTED IN YOU. YOU BELONG TO US.
TIM!
X-MEN 2099 #4--AGAIN


BRRZAKK
LET HER GO, MOTSTUFF!
MY, WHAT PASSION YOU HAVE FOR LUNA--
--HOW SIMPLE IT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR HER TO MANIPULATE YOU TO HER SIDE.
SUCH A PITY THAT [redacted] YOUR HEART--
--I'LL RIP IT OUT INSTEAD.
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE SCARED BY THE NIGHTMARE ON BALD MOUNTAIN THEATRICS?
WHATEVER POWER SOURCE YOU'RE DRAWING FROM I CAN MATCH!
THE COMPUTER MAY [redacted] DOWN, BUT THE GENERATORS [redacted] STILL RUNNING!

BRRZZAK
WZZOOM
JUNKPILE, LOOK AT THE MESS YOU'VE CREATED.
...HELP ME... CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING... NUMB ALL OVER...
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW IT HURTS ME TO SEE YOU IN SUCH PAIN, [redacted]...
...ESPECIALLY WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW YOU SOLD ME OUT TO LYTTON SYNGE.
OR HOW YOUR SCRAP METAL SEIZURE EIGHTY-SIXED THE ACCELERATOR.
--WIPING OUT GIGABYTES OF EXTREMELY VALUABLE INFORMATION.
X-MEN 2099 #1.-- JOEY
IF YOU WANT YOUR REVENGE, TAKE IT...
...KILL ME... PLEASE...
NO... I'M GOING TO USE MY HEALING HAND TO SAVE YOUR METALLIC HIDE...
YOU'RE GOING TO OWE ME... MEAT.

THIS IS NO PICNIC FOR ME... AAAAH..
...IT'S A LOT EASIER TO DESTROY THAN TO HEAL...
...NOW THE BAD NEWS IS YOU'RE GONNA LIVE.
YOU'RE COLD, XI'AN... YOU ALWAYS WERE ICE...
YOU'VE LOST, BOY.
BONK
YOU'VE EXHAUSTED THE GENERATORS' POWER SUPPLY--
--WHILE THE EARTH IS MY POWER SOURCE...
SURRENDER.
NEVER.
CHUNGK

FITZGERALD DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP, AND I WAS GETTING
THEN I TAKE IT YOU HAVE ACCEPTED MY TO JOIN ME IN THE THEATRE OF PAIN.
BUT I WARN YOU BRIMSTONE, IF I LIKE IT...
...I MAY TAKE YOUR JOB.
XI'AN... WHY...?
FORGET ABOUT XI'AN-- HE'S WITH BRIMSTONE NOW...
WE'VE LOST..
NOT QUITE YET, LUNA...
YOU'VE WON A REPRIEVE, GIRL, LEADING TO XI'AN.
HE HAS A HUMOR AND A CRUEL STREAK THAT WILL SERVE HIM WELL IN THE THEATRE.
ENJOY WHILE IT LASTS.
I'LL BE BACK.
DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY. I'M SURE WE'LL SEE EACHOTHER AGAIN.
HAVE YOU EVER TELEPORTED, MUTANT?
NO.
THE SENSATION TAKES SOME GETTING USED TO.

I RODE OUT WITH XI'AN BECAUSE I THOUGHT HE'D BE INTO SOME WILD KICKS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE TURNED ON ME.
YOUR ONE TIME LEADER'S A DANGEROUS MAN...
...AND THE THEATRE WILL MAKE HIM LETHAL.
HE'S NOT HIMSELF. NONE OF US IS ANYMORE.
WE HAVE ANOTHER PROBLEM... JUNKPILE.
XI'AN HEALED HIM BUT HE'S STILL RECOVERING UNDER THAT TON OF JUNK.
LEAVE HIM.
AFTER WATCHING THE DESTRUCTION OF HUNDREDS OF MUTANTS' LIVES--ELECTRONIC OR OTHERWISE--
--I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SPILLING MORE MUTANT BLOOD.
THEN WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
MAKE OUR WAY BACK TO SHAKTI AND THE OTHERS.
IF XI'AN ISN'T GOING TO LEAD THE X-MEN--I WILL!
WHEN THE TIME COMES, WE'RE GOING AFTER THE THEATRE OF PAIN.
THAT'S WHEN WE BRING DOWN THE HOUSE.

MY ROADSONG HAS BECOME A DIRGE.
ALL THAT I ONCE BELIEVED LIES MANGLED LIKE A WRECK ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.
I AM WITHOUT DESTINATION OR PURPOSE.
EVEN WHEN I PUSH THE NITROBURN TO ITS LIMITS, SEEKING SOLACE IN SPEED...
...I CANNOT IGNORE THE EMPTINESS I FEEL...
...OR THE GNAWING SURETY THAT THE ROAD I HAVE CHOSEN...
...LEADS NOWHERE.
NEXT VANITY KILLS

ARE YOU X-PERIENCED?

Joey Cavalieri
Editor

Lia Pelosi
Assistant Editor

All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request. Mail correspondence to:
Are You X-perienced, c/o Marvel Comics, 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016.

Out Of My Head

On June 18, 1994, Sotheby's held a huge auction of comics and original comic art. I got to go there the day before and have lunch, with John Romita, Sr., Dick Ayers, Murphy Anderson and a host of others. There's a way to spend an afternoon! Marvel's Bonnie Berryman and I heard comic book greats swap stories about the beginnings of the careers. Many of the books in the show, including Golden Age *Captain America* and the ultra-rare *Marvel Comics* #1 from Nov. 1939 were directly from Murphy's collection!

The auction's highlights were authorized reproductions of Marvel's earliest covers! Jack Kirby re-drew his cover for *Amazing Spider-Man* #1, which sold for $13,000. Did I mention that our own Spider-Man 2099 found his way into the auction in the form of an original painting, done for the trading card, by the Brothers Hildebrandt?

In the cab back to work, John told me he'd actually owned two copies of *Action* #1 as a kid. He kept one in a wax paper bag, years before anyone invented mylar. Now there's a man with vision!

Dear Awesome X-dudes,

Issue #10 could not have been better! Fitz and Luna make an excellent couple! Don't spoil it by having Tim see the error of his ways or anything like that.

The way things are going, Tim and Xi'an could end up being enemies with the X-Men instead of allies. If that happened, what would the remaining X-Men do? There aren't many left. Right now, the only ones are Krystalin, Shakti, Meanstreak and Bloodhawk (and he's in the Savage Land)! No offense to these guys, but they're no match for Xi'an and Tim. Luna could even be involved. They'd make an unstoppable team. I don't know how long Luna will be around, but she'd better watch her back. I don't want her to go back to the Theatre of Pain. She's way stronger on her own. One request: please don't break up Luna and Skullfire!

Tracy Buckheit
21 Kingswood Dr.
Orchard Park, NY 14127

Don't worry, Tracy. They do seem pretty, um, friendly.

Dear X-People,

Issue #10 was one the best yet! I have all ten X-MEN 2099 comics. One of the reasons I like your comic is the art. Ron Lim is the best penciler ever. Tom Smith makes the comic even better. I don't know who this Caponsecco is, but you should have him color more often. He complements Tom Smith. John Francis Moore really knows how to make this book exciting!

I'm glad Luna's back. I hope Luna and Tim get together. I like Tim better now that he's more loose. I like Zhao's X-Men, The Chosen. Please don't make any more of them die. Make Frostbite an X-Man. Victor Ten Eagles is a great character. Make him an X-Man too because the team's getting low on members. Until Luna gets a suntan, make mine Marvel.

Brandon Baker
3105 Gratz Rd. #16
Owenton, KY 40359

With the Chosen on ice, Brandon, their fate's up in the air. It's up to you guys: should we bring them back?

Dear Mr. Cavalieri & Co.,

I love the "Out of My Head" section of each letters page. It's amazing to see somebody peel away all the layers of brown cruddy stuff and get straight to the point.

I'm not going to get all gushy and ramble on about how X-MEN 2099 is my favorite comic; it's not. The reason I've stayed with it is that I know John Francis Moore's capabilities through his superb work on DOOM 2099. Everything clicked with issue #10, however. Unlike most so-called madmen, La Lunatica really is insane; intensely, terrifyingly so. I wonder if Skullfire's insanity comes as a result of her mental manipulations or was his madness there all the time and she was just a catalyst? This is the John Francis Moore I know and love to read! I'm glad he was given the time to water and carefully tend this grungy little shrub (these are not the glamorous and nigh omnipotent X-Men of the present), its blossom is beautiful, its fragrance enchants.

Katherine Keller
5155 Escondido #105
Las Vegas, NV 89119

That's the nicest metaphor we've ever gotten, Kath!

Dear people of X-MEN 2099,

X-MEN 2099 #10 is better than all the rest of the other 9 issues! La Lunatica is back! I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw on the last page of ish #9 in the next issue section that she's coming back. Oh, please let her join, she's so nifty!

Justin McDowell
521 Main St.
Grinnell, IA 50112

Luna's not the kind of gal who "joins" teams, Justin. She takes 'em over! But, we'll see...

Dear *Experienced*,

Just got issue #10. Whatever you did to the colors keep it up! Ron's art gets better every issue. Fitz looked ready to leap off the page. I like what John's doing with the character.

One little boo-boo: Shakti is concerned that Xi'an is schizophrenic. Contrary to a vast public misconception, schizophrenia and multiple personality disorder are two completely different disorders and not related in any way. An understandable mistake, but one that should be corrected.

Otherwise, this was the best issue yet! I sense big doings on the way. I'm expecting many more best issues to come!

Jenni Bomford
Prince George, BC
Canada, V2N 2H9

Shakti thought Xi'an suffered from schizophrenia because she didn't yet realize the true cause of his behavior.

Dear *Are You Experienced?*,

Wow! You guys have a great comic going!

1) Please, please, please bring Metalhead back. I don't care how ugly he may look. His strength really helps out the team.

2) The end of issue #10 was great! Does Luna's kiss have some effect on people? If so, that'd explain why Skullfire seems to have fallen in love with her.

3) I sure hope Xi'an's new attitude is temporary. I'd hate to see the only one on the team with a "Mr. Fantastic" type of personality become insensitive and downright evil. I mean, you might as well have the Punisher 2099 lead the team!

4) I wish Bloodhawk would hang around the team some more. But having him go to the Savage Land 2099 with Doom is pretty cool!

5) Is Zhao dead? The Chosen were pretty neat! Too bad Monster died. He was my favorite.

6) Is there a way to pronounce Xi'an?

Nathan Fowler
621 S. 194th St.
Seattle, WA 98148

We pronounce it "Zi-an."

NEXT ISSUE
Wouldn't you like to know?

BULLPEN MARVEL COMICS BULLETINS

ProFile: ANDY KUBERT

Artist **Andy Kubert** describes his work on the X-MEN as "the best job I ever had!" Here, Andy tells how he got the job, as well as what it's like to be part of a comic book drawing dynasty that includes his brother, **Adam** and his father, **Joe**!

Where and when were you born?
I was born in Boonton, NJ, on February 27, 1962.

How did you break into comics?
I started off as a letterer — my dad taught me how to do that. I got into the drawing part from attending my dad's school (the Joe Kubert School of Comic Art in Dover, NJ). Lettering got me into Marvel — I lettered the VOID INDIGO graphic novel, and the VOID INDIGO series, which lasted two issues!

How long did you attend the school?
Three years.

Did you do your homework every night?
I had no choice! (laughter.)

Did your brother, Adam, go to school with you?
Yeah, we went at the same time.

Which one of you was the better student?
I was, of course!

How do you and Adam get along?
We get along good. Our studios are right next door to each other, and we're always going back and forth.

Did you always want to work in comics?
I had no idea what I wanted to do! I didn't start drawing until I was 20 years old! Originally I was just going to go to my dad's school for a year. I figured I would get a job working for the school, not as a teacher, but maybe in the administrative department. I never thought I would draw for the school!

When did you graduate?
I finished school in '84. I began lettering while I was still in school. My dad was editing *Sgt. Rock* at the time, and he would give work to his second and third year students.

What was your first art job for Marvel?
I did a backup in SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN. Then I did a whole issue of SAVAGE SWORD. Then I went and did some DC stuff — I think it was *Warlord*. I used to remember the order I did stuff in — now it all blends together!

How did you get assigned to the X-MEN?
Jim Lee decided to quit. Bob Harras called me. It took me half a second to decide!

Who are your favorite members of the team?
Gambit and Colossus.

Had you always been an X-MEN fan?
No. My dad used to bring home comics when I was a kid, but they were just DC's. I never knew Marvel existed! It wasn't until I was going to my dad's school that I discovered the X-Men. I started collecting Marc Silvestri's issues — I'm a big fan of his work.

Do you have a mutant power?
Yeah, but you wouldn't want to print what it is!

Did you ever have a crush on any of the girls from the Brady Bunch?
Yeah — Alice the maid!

NEWSLINE

If you're in the New York area this week, check out the Marvel Mega-Tour at the Meadowlands Convention Center, in Secaucus, NJ! Participating area retailers include: Alternate Realities (914) 723-7950, A & S Comics (201) 896-0280, Comic Attitudes (908) 572-6930, Dream Factory (203) 849-8977, Heroes Outpost (908) 561-5511 and Starlog (201) 712-1414.

A reminder that upcoming stops on the Mega-Tour include the L. A. Hilton and Towers on August 27th, the Arlington Convention Center in Dallas on September 3, and McCormick Place in Chicago on September 24th. Marvel will be there — all that's missing is you!

HYPE BOX

CLAN DESTINE #1 written and drawn by the amazing **Alan Davis** — on sale now!

NOW ON SALE

- **ALICE COOPER: LAST TEMPTATION OF ALICE #2 OF 3:** The sinister curtain rises on act two! By Gaiman/Zulli!
- **ALADDIN #1:** Your wish is our command, as Aladdin gets his own monthly book! By Nordling/Cool & Reguard/Albrecht!
- **AVENGERS #379:** It's hard-hitting heroics as **Hera** harasses Hercules! By Harras/Epting/Palmer!
- **AVENGERS DOUBLE FEATURE #1:** Featuring the premiere of GIANT-MAN #1! By Perez/Moore/Dzon!
- **BEAVIS & BUTT-HEAD #8:** The boys join the circus! Talk about your sideshows! By Parker!
- **CLAN DESTINE #1:** From the people who brought you EXCALIBUR! By Davis/Farmer!
- **CONAN THE ADVENTURER #6:** There once was a man-mountain from Khitai ... By Thomas/Kayanan!
- **DOOM 2099 #22:** A mysterious *woman* from Doom's past returns! By Moore/Broderick/Nyberg!
- **EXCALIBUR #82:** The countdown to **Generation X** continues! By Lobdell/Lashley/Candelario!
- **GENERATION X COLLECTOR'S PREVIEW #1:** Here come the mutant slackers!
- **GHOST RIDER 2099 #8:** GR's girlfriend is sick — and **Alchemax** has the cure! By Kaminski/Buckingham!
- **G.I. JOE #163:** Meet the Battle Attack Trooper code-named: the BAT! By Fein & Quinones/Rosado/Snider!
- **INCREDIBLE HULK #422:** A **Thor/Hulk** clash like you've never seen before! By David/Frank/Smith!
- **JUSTICE: FOUR BALANCE #2:** Everybody hates the **Hate Monger**! By Nicieza/Brasfield/Turner!
- **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #165: Rage** goes on a date! Plus: **Vengeance**!
- **MARVEL SUPER HEROES MEGAZINE #1:** Classic tales of **Hulk, FF** and more!
- **MARVEL TALES #290:** Jameson hires **X-Factor** to hunt down Spidey! By DeFalco/Leonardi/Layton!
- **MIDNIGHT SONS UNLIMITED #7:** It's swamp-erific action with the **Man-Thing**! By Benson & Abnett!
- **MORBIUS #22:** Breaking up is hard to do — especially when you're a *vampire*! By Truisani/Gilmore/Bryant!
- **NOVA #10: Diamondhead! Corrupter! Rhino!** And in this corner ... Nova! By Marrinan/Stegbauer!
- **PUNISHER ANNUAL #7:** European sight-seeing — Punisher-„style! By Abnett & Lanning/Braithwaite/Williamson!
- **PUNISHER #96:** Punisher and Grisholm must escape a deadly combat arena! By Abnett & Lanning/Teran!
- **REN & STIMPY: MASTERS OF TIME & SPACE SPECIAL #1:** Choose your own eediotic adventure! By Slott/Kazaleh!
- **REN & STIMPY TPB: YOUR PALS:** Featuring Stimpy as the *king of rock*!
- **ROCKO'S MODERN LIFE #5:** Rocko's in the doghouse with **Earl the Tough Dog**! By Lewandowski/Auck/Fields!
- **SABRETOOTH CLASSICS #6:** Sabretooth starts a slaughter with the **Marsuders**! By L. Simonson/W. Simonson/Wiacek!
- **SPIDER-MAN MAGAZINE #7:** Spidey and the Hulk battle the **Juggernaut**!
- **SPIDER-MAN #51:** Spidey's clone fights alone! By Mackie/Lyle/Hanna!
- **TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION 2 #12: Optimus Prime** is consumed! Last issue! By Furman/Galan & Senior/Amash!
- **WARLOCK & THE INFINITY WATCH #33: Count Abyss** possesses the soul gem! By Arcudi/Oliffe!
- **WHAT IF #66:** What if **Rogue** possessed the power of Thor? By Furman/Royle/Georgiou!
- **X-MEN #37:** The X-Men battle the next generation of mutants! By Nicieza/Kubert/Ryan!
- **X-MEN 2099 #13:** In this issue, you'll get a hunka hunka **Brimstone** Love! By Moore/Lim/Sanders III!
- **X-MEN POSTER BOOK #3:** With an all-new cover by Richard Bennett! By Various!

NEWSSTAND NEXT WEEK: THE BLACK CAT GOES AFTER SPIDEY ... BLADE GETS CROSSED! ICEMAN, BOBBY ... EXTINCTION MEETINGS ... SPIDER-MAN VS. SPIDER-MAN ... CLIMACTIC CONCLUSION ... PSIONEX RETURN TO BUST THE NEW WARRIORS' CHOPS ... SHINOBI SHAW OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB SUES UP AGAINST THE X-MEN ... SPIDEY'S WEB OF DOOM UNRAVELS ... PUNISHER 2099 IS REUNITED WITH HOTWIRE ... ALL THIS AND STAPLES TOO!